

which is often in a pupil a welcome sign of intelligence. In his views on evolution and classification, Dr. Davis cannot be accused of being behind the times. In fact, in his advocacy of the hypothesis—advanced only six months ago by one of his pupils<sup>1</sup>—of the sporophytic nature of the tetrasporic plants in the Red Algae, he is suggesting (p. 219–p. 220) and even asserting (p. 222) a theory not yet generally accepted or even generally known. This course seems at least unwise in an elementary text-book.

On one topic, of some practical importance, Dr. Davis seems to be satisfied with a treatment that is at once popular and superficial. He does not do justice to the fleshy fungi, or even show great knowledge of them. We should rather expect to be told, for instance, (p. 253) that truffles are subterranean. We have a right to demand that the definition of so important a structure as the *volva* (p. 266) should be explicit and correct. Dr. Davis is following a popular misconception in making this term equivalent to the popular term, *cup*, applied to the sheath or bag that encloses the base of the stipe in *Amanita*. The *volva* is much more than this. His error becomes serious, even dangerous, when he teaches that poisonous *Amanitas* all have large *volvas* (i. e. *cups* according to the text). As is well known, *Amanita muscaria* a deadly species common everywhere has a *volva* which is broken into scales on stipe and pileus, and has no cup at all.

The book has abundant and clear illustrations throughout—many of them original, especially those of Dr. Davis.

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TWO EDITIONS OF TORREY & GRAY'S FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA.—Some time ago my attention was called to variations in copies of Torrey & Gray's Flora of North America, volume 1, which seem to indicate that some portions have been reprinted. An examination of the type shows that pages 321 to 360 (signatures 41 to 45) inclusive were reset in a slightly different font, so that, while the amount of matter is the same on each page, that of the lines often varies. The Greek letters and figures show clearly the change of type: for instance, the base line of the 2 and the top line of the 7 are curved in the original but straight in the reprint. On page 324 and 325 of the original

<sup>1</sup> Yamanouchi: Bot. Gaz. xli. 425–433. June, 1906.



the names *Hosackia micranthus* and *H. prostratus* appear, while in the reprint these names are corrected to *H. micrantha* and *H. prostrata*. Page 329 of the original bears the number 42, but this is omitted in the reprint. The title-pages of several copies of the work show no indication of a second issue, and why this substitution was made or at what date I am unable to state.—HOWARD W. PRESTON, Providence, Rhode Island.

JUNCUS COMPRESSUS IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.—A rush which Mr. A. S. Pease found growing abundantly on the Plains of Abraham near the city of Quebec, 30 Aug.—1 Sept., 1904, has been determined as *Juncus compressus* Jacq. This plant, a close relative of the common "black grass" of our salt meadows, is common in inland situations throughout the greater part of Europe and Asia, but has not been reported from America. Although probably introduced on the Plains of Abraham, it is a rush which might be expected to occur as a native in northeastern America, since in general its distribution is parallel to that of a number of rushes of broad range which have been found in the maritime provinces and northeastern states.

The characters by which *Juncus compressus* may be distinguished from the black grass, *Juncus Gerardi* Lois., are somewhat technical. In *Juncus compressus* the anthers are little if at all longer than the filaments, in *Juncus Gerardi* they are thrice as long; in *Juncus compressus* the style is much shorter than in *Juncus Gerardi*; in *Juncus compressus* the sphaeric-obovoid capsule is conspicuously longer than the outer tepals, whereas the ellipsoid capsule of *Juncus Gerardi* is usually about the same length as the tepals. A strong tendency, which cannot, however, be relied upon to separate the plants, is for the primary bract to be longer than the inflorescence in *Juncus compressus* and shorter in *Juncus Gerardi*.—H. H. BARTLETT, Gray Herbarium.